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Approved For Release 2006/01/30 : CIA-RDP70B00338R000300090084-4

Gore Proposes U.N. Supervision Of American and Soviet ABMs

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The United States should consider putting its own and Russia's anti-ballistic-missiles under United Nations supervision, according to Chairman Albert Gore (D-Tenn.) of the Senate Disarmament Subcommittee.

He said this and other steps should be explored as alternatives "to the consummate madness" of intensifying the arms race between the two countries.

Russia already has started installing an anti-ballistic-missile defense system. The question is whether the United States should follow suit—an investment which Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara predicts would total \$40 billion.

For the moment, President Johnson has decided against installing a missile defense around the U.S. in hopes Russia can be talked out of going ahead with anti-ballistic-missiles. (ABM).

Solid Accord Needed

While declaring he supports the President in this endeavor, Gore said the U.S. must face the fact that a straight "we won't if you won't" approach may not be enough to bring a downturn in the arms race.

Therefore, he said, the U.S. and allies should explore a number of paths which could lead toward the crucial downturn.

The military threat of Red China to both the U.S. and Russia should be exploited as a "persuader" for an arms

control agreement between the U.S. and Russia, Gore said.

As it is now, he said, "Russia is not free to make this decision about anti-ballistic missiles with respect to U.S. missiles alone. Neither are we," since Red China soon will have ICBMs which could reach the U.S.

If China did not have any nuclear weapons, Gore said, the U.S. and Russia could concentrate on trying to negotiate a complete ban on defensive missiles.

China's Capability

But China's nuclear capability—which Gore termed already greater than that of either France or Great Britain—means the U.S. and Russia will probably want to build at least limited missile-defense systems to protect themselves against the possibility of Chinese attack.

For this eventuality, it might be possible for the U.S. and Russia to conclude an agreement that they would not build full-scale anti-missile defense systems, but would build limited missile defenses.

If progress toward such an agreement could be made, Gore said, the U.S. should take the idea another step and consider giving the United Nations some responsibility over the anti-ballistic-missiles.

Conceding "this is just one man's idea," Gore said some kind of UN supervision over U.S. and USSR missile defenses would help reassure each side about the other's

intentions while bringing the downturn in the arms race.

Still another avenue worth exploring, Gore said, is U.S. willingness "to modify its stockpile of nuclear weapons."

Modification, in nuclear parlance, is like taking the powder out of two old firecrackers and packing it into one new one which will have four times the bang.

No Loss of Power

Warheads of nuclear missiles are being modernized in such a fashion continually anyway. Gore said the total number of U.S. offensive missiles could be reduced through such modification without losing any real offensive power.

The diplomatic advantage, however, would be the ability to offer Russia a reduction in the overall U.S. lead in offensive missiles. The Pentagon estimates the U.S. has a 3-or-4-to-1 edge over Russia in offense.

Gore expressed these views in an interview following the first series of disarmament subcommittee hearings on how the U.S. should respond to Russia's deployment of a missile defense.

His subcommittee has heard testimony from both military and Central Intelligence Agency leaders on Russian ABM progress. Gore said Russia is installing a missile defense for Moscow and 26 other areas.

Dual Role Missiles

The defensive missiles outside Moscow have a dual role of intercepting high altitude bombers as well as missiles, according to the intelligence leaders.

Gore said he hoped to develop a public dialogue on the arms race and ways to slow it down because "how far the people are willing to go sets the real limits on foreign policy."

The disarmament committee chairman said at least one full session will be open to the public to help stimulate a dialogue on the arms questions. Secretary McNamara is scheduled to appear as a witness Mar. 8 in what may be an open session.

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